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REPORT

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Grossenhain Airfield

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 4 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. On 17 January 1953, four jet fighters were parked in front of the hangars at Grossenhain airfield. Six AA guns were observed next to the hangars.
2. The following observations were made at the field between 19 and 31 January:

19 January. There was a closed cloud base, visibility of about 2 km and snowfall in the morning. No air activity was observed. The runway was covered with snow about 3 cm deep.

20 January. Between noon and 3 p.m., about 12 take-offs were made by swept-back jet fighter which remained aloft for 5 to 8 minutes. There was an almost closed cloud base and a visibility of about 1 km. The sky cleared up about noon.

21 January. a truck towing a snow plow cleared the snow from the runway and taxiways and strewed red sand or salt. There was a closed cloud base at an altitude of about 600 meters and visibility of about 2.5 km. Between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters circled over the field for 5 to 10 minutes.

25X1

22 January. There was a closed ceiling and visibility of 1.5 km. No air activity was performed.

23 January. Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., local flights were made by swept-back jet fighters without auxiliary fuel tanks. There was the same weather as on 22 January.

24 January. There was a closed ceiling, visibility of 1 km, rain and snow. No air activity was performed.

62

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

25 January. The sky was 6/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,500 meters. Visibility was good. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., there was intensive air activity by swept-back jet fighters and single-engine planes. [redacted] The latter plane taxied from the hangars on the northeast-southwest runway and on the main runway to its eastern end. It took off from east to west, flew half a circle over the field and subsequently landed from east to west, taxiing as far as the western end of the runway. After the landing, the plane turned and taxied at the side of the runway as far as its eastern end. There, its engines were stopped, while some men climbed on the planes. [redacted] the pilots were being exchanged. After 3 minutes, the plane taxied to the take-off point and took off again. A MiG-15 [redacted] simultaneously practiced flying. At 8 a.m., 15 jet fighter without auxiliary fuel tanks were observed at the field.

25X1

25X1

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27 January. In the morning, there was a closed cloud base, a visibility of about 1 km and rainfall. A biplane and a single-engine plane circled once over the field.

28 January. Between 9:50 a.m. and 3p.m., some flights, each lasting 15 to 20 minutes, were made while there was a closed cloud base and a visibility of 1.5 km.

29 January. Between 10:40 a.m. and 2 p.m., 12 flights were made by swept-back jet fighters. The sky was 3/10 overcast and visibility was limited to 2 km.

30 January. Between 9 a.m. and noon, there was intensive local flying by swept-back jet fighters which individually flew for about 5 minutes.

31 January. There was a 2/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,800 meters and very good visibility. Between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., more than 80 take-offs were observed. Some planes flew in elements of two. At 2 p.m., 17 MiG-15 and type-29 planes without auxiliary fuel tanks were parked in front of the hangars.¹

3. On 30 January, six trucks towing AA guns entered the field through the entrance in the southwestern corner coming from Elaterwenda. [redacted]

25X1

4. Sedan [redacted] and [redacted] trucks were observed entering and leaving the field: [redacted]

5. Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 25 January, MiG-15s circled over the field. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 26 January, air activity was performed. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

[redacted] On 27 January, there was air activity by swept-back jet fighters. Between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 31 January, swept-

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

back jet fighters practiced local flying. The sky was overcast and it began to rain.¹

1. Comment. Crossenhain airfield is occupied by the headquarters of a fighter division and two fighter regiments. When compared with the first half of January, air activity was considerably intensified between 17 and 31 January; mostly individual training was performed.

25X1

2. Comment. Previously, two light AA batteries with six 37-mm guns each were observed at the field.

25X1

It has not been determined whether these AA guns are remained permanently at Crossenhain airfield.

25X1

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